

Montefiore has long been recognized as one of the Nation's premier pediatric research and training institutions, having trained a significant percentage of the country's pediatricians. In recent years, Montefiore has lost substantial numbers of pediatric specialists to more traditional children's hospitals which could have a dramatic impact on the numbers of physicians who practice in inner-city communities. To ease the competitive disadvantage and ensure its capacity to retain critically needed pediatric resources for the Bronx, Montefiore must consolidate pediatric specialists and specialty care in one location, a children's hospital.

To meet the enormous challenge of providing high-quality, comprehensive services for Bronx children, Montefiore will develop the Montefiore Medical Center Child Health Network [CHN], an integrated system of family-centered care for families of all socio-economic levels. The CHN, organized around the core principal of providing enhanced access to high quality primary care, will offer a full complement of child health services.

As the central institution of the CHN, the Montefiore Children's Hospital will feature 106 beds in age-appropriate units, state-of-the-art pediatric emergency and intensive care units, a full spectrum of tertiary subspecialties, including environmental sciences and behavioral pediatrics, a short-stay day hospital, support facilities and services for children and their families, including playrooms, school facilities, and a family resource center, and lastly, innovative communications technologies including a telemedicine consultation service and on-line teaching and tele-conferencing capabilities.

Montefiore Medical Center has provided community services and community-based health care programs for over a century. It is uniquely qualified to implement an initiative as innovative and far reaching as the child health network. This initiative will strengthen and extend Montefiore's commitment to the Bronx community as a whole, and the children of the Bronx in particular. Through the centralization of its diverse services in this borough of New York City, the new Children's Hospital and its satellites will elevate the quality, scope, and accessibility of primary and specialty health care services available to children and their families.

Mr. President, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Appropriations includes a reference to this initiative in its report. The language is as follows:

The health status of children living in the Bronx section of New York City is particularly worrisome with sociodemographic and health status indicators which underscore a need for improved health care services. The Committee is aware of plans to establish a state-of-the-art children's hospital in the Bronx to address the critical needs of its pediatric population. To enhance current Federal child health care programs in the area,

the Committee encourages the Department to assist in the planning of this new facility and its potential programs.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with the administration, the Congress, and the medical center on developing a Federal partnership for this initiative. This initiative could serve as a national model of how complete health systems can adapt and respond to the very unique and challenging health needs of children in medically underserved urban communities.●

CONFIRMATION OF CHARLES R. BREYER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate has approved the nomination of Charles R. Breyer to be a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously found Mr. Breyer to be well-qualified, its highest rating, for this appointment. He has extensive trial experience with the district attorney's office for the city and county of San Francisco, the Department of Justice Watergate Special Prosecution Force, and in private practice. His nomination enjoys the strong support of Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER.

The Northern District of California has 3 vacancies out of 14 judgeships and desperately needs Charles Breyer to help manage its growing backlog of cases.

I am delighted for Mr. Breyer and his distinguished family that he was confirmed. He will make a fine judge.●

CONFIRMATION OF FRANK C. DAMRELL, JR. TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate confirmed Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to be a U.S. district judge for the eastern district of California.

The American Bar Association found Mr. Damrell to be well-qualified, its highest rating, for this appointment. He has extensive trial experience as a former deputy attorney general for the State of California, a former deputy district attorney for Stanislaus County, and a trial attorney in the private practice of law for the past 27 years. His nomination enjoys the strong support of Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER.

I am delighted for Mr. Damrell and his distinguished family that he was confirmed. He will make a fine judge.●

CONFIRMATION OF A. RICHARD CAPUTO TO BE A U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate confirmed A.

Richard Caputo to be a U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Mr. Caputo is a well-qualified nominee.

The nominee has decades of legal experience in the private practice of law at the firm of Shea, Shea & Caputo in Kingston, PA. Prior to joining this firm, he served the public interest as a assistant public defender in Luzerne County, PA. The American Bar Association has found him to be qualified for this appointment.

We first received Mr. Caputo's nomination on July 31, 1997. He had a confirmation hearing on September 5. He was unanimously reported by the committee on November 6. With the strong support of Senator SPECTER, this nomination has moved expeditiously through the Committee and the Senate.

I congratulate Mr. Caputo and his family and look forward to his service on the district court.●

PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I stand today to recognize the achievements and progress of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, KY. On October 20, 1997, Industry Week Magazine named the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant one of America's top 10 plants. This would be a greater honor for any manufacturer, but I feel that it is particularly remarkable for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. When producing a potentially dangerous material like enriched uranium, extensive safety precautions have to be their first priority. The uranium they produce is shipped not only throughout the United States, but worldwide as well, to be used in the nuclear fuel cycle.

The 275 plants nominated for this honor were judged in 14 areas including productivity, quality of product, employee involvement, cost reduction, and customer focus. The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is impressive in all of these areas, and their performance has improved immensely over the past 5 years. In 1993, analysts predicted that the plant would have to close in the early 21st century, but continuous improvements have put an end to this speculation. There has been a 65-percent reduction in injuries over the past 5 years, a reduction in environmental concerns, and an impressive 100-percent on-time production delivery rate.

The 1,800 workers of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, most of which are Kentuckians, are truly to be commended. These workers and their management team have visited other quality plants for innovative ideas about how to improve their own production. They have formed over 30 problem-solving teams, solicited and acted on advice from employees, and engaged in extensive and continual annual training. The positive labor-management relationship has successfully turned the